

SURPLUS

NON RECORD MATERIAL
NW H RECORDS DIV., NARS

HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 446
U.S. ARMY

JANUARY UNIT HISTORY NARRATIVE

- 1 Jan 45 - Balance Trp C 94 Rcn and 1st Plat C-125 Engrs joined unit 0930 for movement. Bn and attachments began mounted road march from Schoenbourg 010945 Jan 45. For route of march see overlay. Bn and attachments closed in new areas at Rahling 011350 Jan 45. For location of troops see overlay. Co C moved into new positions 1530. 68 to establish holding position on commanding ground in present sector, using AT Guns, AG's, Mortars, Cal. 50, Cal. 30 MG's and S/A wps for close in defense. Mission of 68 to establish center of resistance from which tks can maneuver atkng from S, SW, or E thru our position. Our disposition to hold a fixed defense so tks can attack. Reconnoiter road system to E, SE of present position to E boundary of XV Corps because if ey atks thru woods, AT Guns and bazookas of this unit may be ordered to E against flank of such and atk. 68 be prepared to drop back to alternate positions vic Schmidtville, similar to positions in Rahling area to repel C/Atk. See atchd overlay of roving patrols of C-94 connecting their OP's.
- 2 Jan 45 - Bn and attachments began mounted road march to new area; head of column crossed IP 021252 Jan 45. Tail of column closed in at Niedersoultzbach 021655 Jan 45. See atchd overlay for route. B-68 (2 rifle plats) with 1-C-125 Engrs to outpost asgd sector (see overlay submitted) to detect and defeat any attempted ey infiltration from woods from NW or thru our flanks. One rifle plat of B-68 in support. C-48 and C-68 in reserve. 1-C-125 Engrs preparing road and tree demolitions.
- 3 Jan 45 - B-68 outposting asgd sector (see overlay for their dispositions) to prevent any attempted ey infiltration from woods from NW or thru our flanks. One rifle plat, B-68, in support. C-48 and C-68 in reserve.
- 4 Jan 45 - B-68 cont'd to outpost asgd sector to prevent any attempted ey infiltration from woods from NW or thru our flanks. One rifle plat, B-68, in support. C-48 and C-68 in reserve. I&R Plat motorized patrols making contact with friendly troops at Erkartswiller to obtain situation and also security patrol to Dossenheim. Patrols continuing throughout night every 3 hrs. See atchd overlay covering patrol routes.
- 5 Jan 45 - Tactical situation the same. Balance of unit and attachment carrying out training schedule (see copy atchd). One section I&R Plat continued motorized contact patrols to GP 180th Inf Regt at Wissemann every two hrs throughout day and night; one section I&R plat cont'd security patrol to Dossenheim every three hrs throughout day and night.
- 6 Jan 45 - B-68 relieved from outpost mission by 1 plat B-94 at 1610. B-68 reassembled in Schoenbourg. Balance of unit carried out training

CLASSIFICATION
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
28 Mar 46
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

- 6 Jan 45 - schedule (see atchd copy). 1-C-125 Engrs and C Trp 94 (-) joined (Cont'd) unit for mtd march to Soultz-sous-Forêts. Unit and attachments crossed IP 2045 on mtd march. (For route of march see overlay).
- 7 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments closed in new area at Soultz-sous-Forêts 0432. C Trp 94 (-) relieved from attachment to 68. Unit reorganizing for any forthcoming mission. 1-C-125 made road ren covering roads in immediate sector (see atchd overlay).
- 8 Jan 45 - At 0300, Co B, 827th TD Bn, joined 68. Ren made by I&R Plat and CO, B-827 for defensive positions in vic of Soultz-sous-Forêts. At 1615 B-827 made practice move to defensive firing positions on high ground approx 1/2 mi. N of Soultz-sous-Forêts and upon completion returned to Soultz-sous-Forêts.
- 9 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments remained alert for movement. 1 Plat B-827 TD moved per request of Task Force Wahl at 1325 to vic N of Hatten. At 1500 balance B-827 TD Bn and C-48 Tk Bn joined forces engaged in tk battle N of Hatten. Ren made by CO and S-3 in conjunction with I&R Plat to select defensive position sites in this sector. See atchd Plan for Defense.
- 10 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments remained alert for movement in any direction. A-48 Tk Bn joined this unit 101930 Jan 45.
- 11 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments began mtd road march, starting at 0530, to Kuhlendorf. Last elements closed Kuhlendorf 0625. B-68 and C-68 dug in defensive positions on high ground SE of town. Launched atk against Rittershoffen at 1545. B-68 relieved to join 48 Tk Bn prior to atk and A-68 rejoined 68. Inf, with A-48 Tk, advanced to within approx 200 yds of town; pinned down by hvy SAF and arty fire. 500 AFA (supporting 68) fired several rds smoke but visibility was too poor to observe. At dark Inf and tks withdrew to line (see atchd overlay) and dug in defensive positions. Hourly patrols contacting 48 Tk Bn on right and Co G, 222d Inf.
- 12 Jan 45 - At 0800 coordinated atk launched on Rittershoffen from high ground (see overlay of 11 Jan). Advanced and Fwd CP was set up in Rittershoffen at 1015. Atk divided into assault groups. Ey Tk, MG, and sniper fire held up troops in North center of town, and forced to withdraw to main street (Ck Pt 1, South). At dark outposted sector in our hands (see overlay). A-48 withdrew at dark to same position as last night with 1-C-125 out in front (for position see overlay). Contact being made with OCB outpost hourly on half-hour and B-68 hourly on half hour, beginning at 1930. PW's: 1
- 13 Jan 45 - Resumed atk on Rittershoffen at 0800. (Ref: Sketch of Town) Progressed slowly from positions on main street of Rittershoffen. A-68 advanced slowly up street to left while C-68 advanced slowly up street NE of Ck Pt 1 South, both working in tk-inf teams. Intense SAF and mort fire (ey) from NE and N part of town around Ck Pt 1, North. Ey arty intense in town throughout day. Intense sniper fire from buildings. AG's and 81mm mort fired on NE part of town vic (15883430). Most of bldgs in town on fire from our arty and ey arty. At dark troops forced to withdraw to same sector of town as last night due to bldgs ahead of troops afire. Ey C/Atks of small forces forced back at 1700 and 1815. Outposted sector of town in our hands the same as last night. Troops firing harassing fire into houses with SA during night. C/Atk from East at approx 2115 successfully repelled and our defenses maintained. Contact patrols maintained with 48 Tk Bn on right and OCB on left, beginning at 1930. PW's: 4

- 14 Jan 45 - Further atk of Rittershoffen launched at 0900. Intense hvy ey mort fire from N of town, which held up troops considerably. Atk made by Tk-Inf teams. 2 ey tks knocked out by our troops (one Mark IV Tk and one Mark VI Tk). Woods to W of town flushed of all ey by patrols. At dark troops withdrew and held bldgs formerly held. Town still burning. (See overlay for location of troops). Friendly arty decreased intense hvy ey mort fire. Friendly arty harassing fires throughout night.
- 15 Jan 45 - Atk by fire continued on Rittershoffen at 0815. Tks being withdrawn a few at a time for maint and immediate return. Patrols moved out after hvy atk by fire, and engaged in fire fights. Resumed strong atk in afternoon. Ey patrols scattered by our arty fire. 81 mort and AG's active throughout day. At dark troops withdrew and held bldgs formerly occupied.
- 16 Jan 45 - Atk of Rittershoffen continued. Much less movement of ey vehicles, but intense hvy ey mort and arty fire continued. Steeple on church in Rittershoffen completely demolished by our Tk fire. Spasmodic ey burp gun and sniper fire from NW part of town. At darkness troops re-occupied bldgs previously held and outposted, making contact patrols with adjacent units. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout night. 81mm mortars fired effectively on ey. Arty destroyed ey ammo dump. Our troops succeeded in flushing and destroying considerable ey.
- 17 Jan 45 - Continued atk of Rittershoffen in conjunction with 1st Bn, 315 Inf. Troops advanced slowly under hvy sniper fire. Ey aggressive, firing on our vehicles on Kuhlendorf-Rittershoffen Road. At darkness troops held previously taken sector and placed outpost defenses, contacting adjacent units. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout night. PW's: 2
- 18 Jan 45 - 68 continued to hold sector of Rittershoffen previously taken. 68 patrols active in conjunction with 1st Bn, 315 Inf, and 68 relieved from attachment to 1st Bn, 315 Inf effective 1100. Contact patrols contact 62d AIB on left. Ey less active today. Received some intense hvy ey arty in Rittershoffen. AG's and 81mm mortars active, firing harassing fires. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout the night.
- 19 Jan 45 - 68 continued to hold sector of Rittershoffen previously taken. Strong combat patrols of 68 tried to force their way North in town, but were held down and forced to withdraw due to hvy ey sniper fire. 81mm mortar and 75mm AG's fired diversionary fire at (158-343) in order to permit strong combat patrol of 68 to make its way up street in W part of town in an effort to contact B-315, but without successful results. Friendly arty prepared for firing defensive harassing missions throughout night. 68 continued to hold previously taken sector of town, making contact patrols throughout the night (see overlay).
- 20 Jan 45 - 68 continued to hold sector previously taken. 68 withdrew upon order to Kuhlendorf, by infiltration. Withdrawal in progress from 1800 throughout the night. "Shell" force of 1 plat B-68 and Tks to remain in Rittershoffen until 210300. Co's began mtd motor march from Kuhlendorf, enroute to Waldowisheim.
- 21 Jan 45 - "Shell" force left Rittershoffen 0300, returned to Kuhlendorf, and with Bn Hqs and Hq Co-68 (held as rear guard in order to give protective fires with 81 mort and AG's, if necessary) began mtd motor march to Waldowisheim. Trains infiltrating to Dauendorf.